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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner UCC Building—P.O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana Fredric D. Moulton, Commissioner

FL. 279

OCTOBER, 1967

Copper Strike Scars Montana's Economic Picture

Strike Effects Now More Pronounced—Prior to the start of the copper strike on July 15, 1967, the Montana economy was riding high, wide and handsome. Non-farm employment for the first five months of this year exceeded comparable months of all past years. All indicators pointed to a record breaking employment year. An employment peak of 200,000 non-farm wage earners was almost certain. Things started to change after July 15. The expected employment peak fell short by 4,300 workers. The heavy weight of the continuing copper strike is now laying hard on the economic scale with depressing pressures on both human and monetary factors. The work stoppage effects in the neighborhood of 7,500 workers directly involved in Anaconda, Butte, Great Falls, and East Helena. Secondary unemployment, especially at Butte and Anaconda, is becoming more noticeable. Other workers in trade, service, and other firms are on short work weeks. Many workers, fearful of a long strike, are leaving the strike areas to search employment both within and out-of-state.

Lost Wages Total Near \$15 Million—wages lost by the striking workers from the time the strike started on July 15 to November 1 is estimated to be at the \$15 million mark. The impact on the communities involved is clear. These are high velocity dollars which are lost forever. Under normal circumstances they would have been circulated immediately and directly into the main stream of the local economies for rent, food, clothing, utility bills, medical

care, and school supplies. They are the dollars that keep salespeople in stores, the service people in restaurants and laundries, the gas station attendants, the neighborhood grocer, and other tradespeople on their jobs. These are the people who are now facing unemployment because of the substantial reduction in consumer buying power caused by the strike.

500 Take West Coast Jobs—About 500 strike idled workers from Butte are now working in Washington, Oregon, and California. The majority of these are skilled craftsmen who have found employment in aircraft and shipbuilding industries. More skilled workers will be lost to other states as the strike continues. Montana cannot afford to lose these workers for one of a community's best assets is the presence of skilled workers in its population. They are capable of earning high wages. They are interested in good housing. They want good schools and public services and can afford to pay the taxes needed to have them.

39 Per Cent of Jobseekers in Three Places—The number of registered jobseekers at Anaconda, Butte, and Great Falls accounted for 39 per cent of the state total of 7,955 at the end of September. The statewide registered worker count was down 1,100 from August as students left the summer labor market to return to schools and colleges.

September Non-Farm Jobs Total 189,300—After a decline of 1,500 workers from August payrolls, non-farm employment in Montana's eight basic

industry groups was estimated at 189,300 for September. The total was down 2,600 from September a year ago. Job declines occurred over the month in six industry groups. Trade and service segments showed the biggest losses, down 700 and 900 respectively. This is a normal seasonal occurrence as tourist traffic fades, national parks and resort centers close for the season, and main street merchants adjust their work forces to more realistic levels after the busy summer season. Construction contractors trimmed 400 workers from their payrolls during September, mainly because of project completions. More moderate job declines from August to September occurred in manufacturing; transportation, utilities, and communications; and finance, insurance and real estate, all down 100 each. Statewide mining employment totals of 3,500 remained the same as August, but were down 3,800 from September last year because of the current copper strike. The only increase in employment during September was in government, up 800 from the August figure. The bulk of the increase was in educational units as the fall school term began.

Beets, Potatoes and Trees—The September farm front was an active one. The potato harvest was in progress while sugar beets and Christmas trees were close behind. Combined, these activities provide seasonal employment for approximately 4,000 workers. Some shortages of truck drivers, tractor operators, and all-around farm hands were in evidence throughout the month.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Aug. 1967	July 1967	Aug. 1966	Aug. 1967	July 1967	Aug. 1966	Aug. 1967	July 1967	Aug. 1966	Aug. 1967	July 1967	Aug. 1966	Aug. 1967	July 1967	Aug. 1966
All Manufacturing	5.7	4.9	5.7	5.6	4.3	4.9	6.9	3.9	5.7	4.5	2.4	4.2	1.5	.4	.5
Durable Goods	6.6	4.9	6.7	6.4	4.5	5.8	8.1	4.6	6.6	5.6	2.7	4.9	1.2	.6	.5
Primary Metal	1.5	2.1	10.4	1.4	1.5	7.6	6.6	3.3	5.8	5.6	2.2	4.5	.4	.8	*
Nondurable Goods	4.1	5.0	3.2	4.0	4.0	2.9	4.8	2.2	3.7	2.3	1.8	2.7	2.0	.2	.6
All Mining	7.3	4.2	6.4	6.5	3.0	4.4	9.6	3.4	8.5	4.4	1.7	3.7	2.2	.2	2.1
Metal Mining	.7	2.6	6.8	.5	.8	3.7	7.7	3.4	6.2	1.7	1.5	3.9	5.2	.1	*

*Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for September

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Sept. 67	Aug. 67	Sept. 66	Aug. 67 to Sept. 67	Sept. 66 to Sept. 67
Civilian Work Force	271.8	289.5	267.9	—17.7	3.9
Total Employment	254.8	271.4	258.9	—16.6	—4.1
Total Non-agricultural Employment	218.8	222.1	223.3	—3.3	—5.0
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	189.3	190.8	191.9	—1.5	—2.6
Total Agriculture Employment	36.0	49.3	35.1	—13.3	.9
Labor Management Disputes	7.6	7.6	*	0	7.6
Total Unemployment	9.4	10.5	9.0	—1.1	.4
Percent Unemployed	3.5	3.6	3.4		
U.S. Unemployment Rate	NA	3.7	3.3		

*Less than 50

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—Economic belt-tightening prevalent in community as strike caused idleness continues for several thousand smeltermen. Side effects of this dispute new cutting hard into other industry groups. Some workers already laid off and others on part time.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Employment levels have leveled off in most industries after good hiring trends earlier in the season. Construction volume shows little change from last month with only a few small projects added. Highway construction jobs over the 200 mark. Trade and service employment holds to steady trends with very little turnover. Good demand for truck drivers sparked by increased oil field activity near Breadus. Two sugar beet refineries will employ 1,000 workers in October.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—A good September economic picture presented by high level employment in all industries. Temporary shortages of laborers, carpenters, and truck drivers developed as pace of construction activity quickened. Shortages of loggers, and service and private household workers continues. Potato harvest took in 850 acres with good yields.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Copper industry strike goes into the fourth month with no appreciable progress noted toward early settlement. Negotiations between company and union officials seem to create new areas of disagreement at every meeting. Except for some new construction starts, job activity at low levels. Layoffs of supervisory personnel and clerical help continues at mining company offices.

CUT BANK—Construction highlighted September labor market scene with work on Two Medicine Dam, highway projects, and new homes in good progress. Trends were slower in oil field operations and lumbering and logging. Some upswing in latter should occur during October. Farm labor demand stayed fairly active.

DILLON—A continuing carpenter's strike about the only blemish on an active job front in industry and agriculture. Construction job totals at high levels on projects outside strike jurisdiction. Completion of new tungsten mill seen next 30-60 days; when operative in January, 1968 payroll of 100 men anticipated. Good farm labor demand

with no worker shortages.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Community sweating out closure of air base in 1968. Efforts by community leaders and state and national officials for conversion of this facility to some civilian use so far unsuccessful. Out-migration of residents and workers continues. Construction and agriculture were most active industries.

GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux—Outdoor hiring in construction, oil fields, and farms cut by heavy rains first half of month. Main street business trends appear fairly good after end of tourist season. Bridge, highway, and new hospital projects comprise main construction agenda. Farm labor supply adequate for late season activities including sugar beet harvest.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Trade industries paced job hiring during September with more than 200 workers added to payrolls of new shopping center. Construction keeps on even keel but with little new hiring noted. Farm labor demand, now at good pace, should continue active as long as good weather lasts. The debit side of the picture reflects lost incomes of strike idled smeltermen.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Job hiring trends in construction and logging and lumbering at low ebb. Log inventories at local lumber mills below normal reducing demand for help. Main street business keeps at normal seasonal volume. Potato harvest delayed until October.

HAYRE, Chinook, Harlem—Good employment levels expected to continue in most industry groups until winter weather sets in. One exception is agriculture where most work has been completed for the season. Construction in good force with some new highway work in offing. Main street employment

in trade and service firms stays on steady basis.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Passive economic trends which covered area all season still prevail with little activity in any industry group. Large inventory of construction workers in waiting for jobs. Home building below normal and two highway projects totaling \$4 million employ but 52 men. Farm labor demand held fairly steady.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish—Good labor demand for all occupations during September. Worker shortages existed in the lumber and food industries. Construction volume figured at \$56 million with new starts listed as addition to high school, two power substations, and 20 new homes. All area lumber mills operating at capacity. Forest service hiring active.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—Job placements in trade industries down from last year but offset by increased hiring in forestry, mining, and manufacturing. Good agenda of building construction progressing in area but new starts consist mainly of small remodeling jobs. Farm job hiring up from year ago with some worker shortages.

LIBBY—Construction, lumbering, trade and service industries all exhibit healthy trends. Libby Dam employment shows slight decline with completion of some dam related projects. Some idled workers leaving for employment in other states. More workers went to jobs in logging, lumber mills, forest service projects, and trade firms making a job placement figure 58 per cent higher than last year.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Tourist traffic was a good pace during September keeping employment high in trade and service firms. Worker shortages in-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	179.3	184.2	194.0	196.4	196.2	191.9	189.8	185.5	185.9	185.4
1967	180.4	178.2	178.2	182.5	185.8	193.8	195.7	190.8	189.3*				

* Preliminary Estimate—

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for September

cluded maids, cooks, waitresses. Heavy demand for workers in Yellowstone Park to replace students who left for school. Active trends in logging and lumber.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—Overall economy of the area bolstered by good farm crops and presence of increased oil fields activity near Broadus. Main street business benefiting from these factors in contrast to year ago when crops were poor and little industrial activity was in evidence.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Job hiring in most industries kept on the active side throughout the month. Increased activity in logging and mills followed end of fire danger in forests. Construction maintains good employment levels but new hiring at minimum. Trade and service industries benefiting from annual influx of university students.

POLSON—Workers from copper mining struck areas of Anaconda and Butte moved into area during the month searching for work. Good job trends now apparent in logging and lumber mills after slowdown earlier because of forest fire danger. Main street business active with some shortages of food industry workers at intervals.

SHELBY—Good weather allowed construction and oil field activities to make good progress during September. Replacement hiring continued in trade and service firms as students returned to school. Some workers leaving area with completion of work at missile sites. Farm job placements fell short of last month and same month last year.

SIDNEY—Area employment at high levels sparked by increased activity in construction and manufacturing. Major construction projects include school at Fairview and feed yard at Sidney. Worker shortages existed in virtually every occupation. Sugar beet campaign started September 27th with about 450 employed.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Logging and lumber mill operations making quick recovery from forest fire hazard slowdown earlier. Shortages of woods and mill workers expected during October. Normal seasonal trends cover other industry groups. No farm labor demand.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Construction employment now at seasonal peak with all skilled workers on jobs. New projects included a church and municipal swimming pool. Oil drilling and exploration activities remain steady with average of 5 rigs on locations. Replacement hiring in trade and service firms in good force.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Sept. 1967 (2)	Aug. 1967 (3)	Sept. 1966	Aug. '67 to Sept. '67	Sept. '66 Against Sept. '67
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	189,300	190,800	191,900	-1,500	-2,600
Manufacturing	22,500	22,600	24,100	-100	-1,600
Durable goods	14,400	14,500	16,100	-100	-1,700
Lumber and timber products	10,200	10,300	9,900	-100	300
*Primary metals	1,700	1,700	4,000	00	-2,300
Other (4)	2,500	2,500	2,200	00	300
Nondurable goods	8,100	8,100	8,000	00	100
Food and kindred products	4,200	4,300	4,200	-100	00
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5)	1,100	1,000	1,000	100	100
Mining	3,500	3,500	7,300	00	-3,800
*Metal mining	1,300	1,300	4,700	00	-3,400
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	800	800	1,000	00	-200
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,400	1,400	1,600	00	-200
Contract Construction	12,800	13,250	14,000	-400	-1,200
Contractors, building construction	3,600	4,000	3,600	-400	00
Contractors, other than building	5,400	5,400	6,500	00	-1,100
Contractors, special trade	3,800	3,800	3,900	00	-100
Transportation and utilities	18,000	18,100	18,200	-100	-200
Interstate railroads	7,300	7,400	7,700	-100	-400
Transportation except railroads	4,300	4,300	4,200	00	100
Utilities including communication	6,400	6,400	6,300	00	100
Trade	45,900	46,600	41,800	-700	1,100
Wholesale trade	9,400	9,600	9,100	-200	300
Retail trade	36,500	37,000	35,700	-500	800
General merchandise and apparel	6,900	6,900	6,600	00	300
Food stores	5,100	5,100	5,200	00	-100
Eating and drinking establishments	10,700	11,100	10,100	-400	600
Automotive and filling stations	7,200	7,300	7,000	-100	200
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,600	6,600	6,800	00	-200
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,100	7,500	7,300	-100	100
Services and miscellaneous	27,500	28,400	27,800	-900	-300
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,000	4,600	4,500	-600	-500
Personal services	2,200	2,200	2,300	00	-100
Other (6)	21,300	21,600	21,000	-300	300
Government	51,700	50,900	48,400	800	3,300
Federal	13,500	13,900	13,800	-400	-300
State and local	38,200	37,000	34,600	1,200	3,600
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,700	23,500	24,300	200	-600
*Manufacturing	2,300	2,300	3,600	00	-1,300
Contract construction	3,000	3,000	2,700	00	300
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,300	6,300	6,100	00	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,900	3,900	3,900	00	00
Government	4,800	4,600	4,500	200	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	27,000	27,200	25,900	-200	1,100
Manufacturing	3,100	3,200	2,900	-100	200
Contract Construction	2,100	2,100	1,700	00	400
Transportation and Utilities	2,700	2,700	2,600	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	8,200	8,300	8,000	-100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	5,200	5,200	5,100	00	100
Government	4,300	4,300	4,200	00	100

*Copper Strike Started 7/15/67

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 691 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,155 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,

medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER, 1967 AND SEPTEMBER, 1966

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U1 Claims*	
	Sept. 1967		Sept. 1966		Sept. 1967		Sept. 1966		Sept. 1967				Sept. 1966				Wk. 9-29	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1967	1966
Anaconda	107	34	165	63	796	149	167	33	56	15	71	21	175	6	181	80	97	38
Billings	637	226	507	152	1,130	317	1,000	280	549	352	901	356	603	401	1,004	377	349	321
Bozeman	234	37	217	38	191	18	152	18	269	59	328	71	260	59	319	49	29	21
Butte	390	128	432	129	965	261	659	123	324	20	344	204	188	6	194	91	423	171
Cut Bank	36	5	35	4	97	20	81	8	67	36	103	53	152	79	231	100	22	18
Dillon	91	33	66	17	120	16	67	21	45	102	147	79	49	79	128	52	18	16
Glasgow	65	16	52	7	68	8	64	1	106	16	122	39	123	33	156	34	23	29
Glendive	52	4	51	5	95	8	77	5	37	29	66	14	60	22	82	17	29	17
Great Falls	727	131	859	184	1,336	247	1,114	218	618	251	869	247	715	267	982	277	285	216
Hamilton	67	17	60	17	67	20	64	18	60	42	102	26	111	41	152	46	32	28
Havre	51	3	53	9	60	6	58	8	112	124	236	49	63	2 65	328	82	29	32
Helena	321	52	299	71	466	72	225	38	179	26	205	64	224	28	252	72	89	101
Kalispell	299	65	327	86	273	44	513	134	501	41	542	169	249	26	275	80	74	133
Lewistown	58	17	40	7	69	13	50	9	54	95	149	26	54	91	145	19	18	18
Libby	79	21			225	57			125		125	50					116	61
Livingston	61	8	71	10	76	9	68	9	123	21	144	48	102	19	121	29	14	23
Miles City	106	27	99	8	108	14	73	8	76	29	105	32	64	12	76	20	12	13
Missoula	739	205	619	169	1,039	272	850	205	854	32	886	325	422	60	482	179	144	154
Polson	55	15	56	16	75	16	66	17	56	7	63	27	70	8	78	27	23	29
Shelby	52	23	48	11	40	6	43	12	62	59	121	42	55	137	192	57	12	11
Sidney	39	6	38	6	52	3	59	1	67	38	105	27	54	27	81	29	10	15
Thom. Falls	39	13	42	11	38	9	38	7	69		69	38	41	1	42	16	14	11
Wolf Point	44	13	39	13	51	12	63	19	25	23	48	15	18	61	79	10	20	29
Billings YOC	258	16	261	6	518	26	622	19	154	13	167	13	211	6	217	11		
TOTALS	4,607	1,115	4,436	1,039	7,955	1,623	6,173	1,211	4,588	1,430	6,018	2,035	4,063	1,734	5,797	1,754	1,882	1,505

*Includes 104 claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 91 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. (1) 1967	Aug. (2) 1967	Sept. 1966	Sept. (1) 1967	Aug. (2) 1967	Sept. 1966	Sept. (1) 1967	Aug. (2) 1967	Sept. 1966
All Manufacturing	125.93	127.39	122.07	39.6	40.7	41.1	3.18	3.13	2.97
Durable Goods	123.24	126.07	121.67	39.5	40.8	42.1	3.12	3.09	2.89
Primary Metals	*	*	126.65	*	*	41.8	*	*	3.03
Nondurable Goods	126.75	126.56	122.50	39.0	39.8	38.4	3.25	3.18	3.19
Food and Kindred Products	116.35	119.70	112.24	40.4	42.0	39.8	2.88	2.85	2.82
All Mining	140.77	143.99	128.30	42.4	43.9	39.6	3.32	3.28	3.24
Metal Mining	*	*	126.88	*	*	38.8	*	*	3.27
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	122.00	121.71	119.36	40.0	40.3	40.6	3.05	3.02	2.94

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

*Copper Strike Began 7/15/67

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
P. O. Box 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
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Act of Congress

